

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 1** relates to a **propylene copolymer** having:

- (1) a 25°C hexane soluble content (H25) of 0-80 wt%; and,
- (2) either no melting temperature (T_m) measurable by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), or a melting temperature (T_m) satisfying, if measurable by DSC, the following relationship:

$$\Delta H \geq 3 \times (T_m - 120)^{1.2}$$

wherein ΔH is a melting endotherm (J/g).

New Claim 31 relates to a **propylene homopolymer** having:

- (1) a 25°C hexane soluble content (H25) of 0-80 wt%;
- (2) neither a melting temperature (T_m) nor a melting endotherm (ΔH) measurable by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC).

In contrast, Kashiwamura et al (EP 0 818 458) fail to disclose or suggest a propylene copolymer as claimed in Claim 1 or a propylene homopolymer as claimed in Claim 31.

Kashiwamura et al disclose a **copolymer of ethylene and 1-octene** (Kashiwamura et al, pages 21, lines 7-26). Therefore, Kashiwamura et al's copolymer is different from the propylene copolymer of the present invention.

Further, Kashiwamura et al's Example 2 provides a homopolypropylene with [T_m] 135.7°C and Example 6 also provides a homopolypropylene with [T_m] 97°C (Kashiwamura et al, pages 20, line 32-pages 21, line 5 and pages 22, lines 36-43).

However, Kashiwamura et al's homopolymers do not satisfy requirement (2) of

Claim 31 of the present invention. Claim 31 requires that the propylene homopolymer has neither a melting temperature (T_m) nor a melting endotherm (ΔH) measurable by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). Thus, Kashiwamura et al do not disclose and suggest the propylene homopolymer and the propylene copolymer of the present invention.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-15 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Kashiwamura et al is believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kashiwamura et al in view of Tanizaki et al is respectfully traversed.

The polymers of Kashiwamura et al are different from the claimed polymers as discussed above. Tanizaki et al do not cure the defects of the primary reference. The combination of Kashiwamura et al and Tanizaki et al does not provide all claim limitations. Accordingly, no proper prima facie case of obviousness exists and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition, the rejection of Claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kashiwamura et al is respectfully traversed.

Claims 28-30 were amended. Notably, there is no C_1 - C_{20} hydrocarbon group in A^1 and A^2 .

Kashiwamura et al only disclose a hydrocarbon group having one or more carbon atoms as a crosslinking group (Kashiwamura et al, page 6, line 48-49), but do not disclose and suggest "a C_1 - C_{20} halogen-containing hydrocarbon group, a silicon-containing group, a germanium-containing group, a tin-containing group, -O-, CO-, -S-, -SO₂-, -Se-, -NR¹-, -PR¹-, -P(O)R¹-, BR¹-, or -AlR¹-, as a cross linking group.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kashiwamura et al is believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 8-15 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of Claims 8, 12 and 28-30.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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